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(54) Title: ASSAY FOR DETECTING METHYLATION CHANGES IN NUCLEIC ACIDS USING AN INTERCALATING NUCLEIC ACID

(57) Abstract: A method for detecting the presence of a target nucleic acid in a sample including treating a sample containing nucleic acid with an agent that modifies unmethylated cytosine; providing to the treated sample a detector ligand in the form of an intercalating nucleic acid (INA) capable of binding to a target region of nucleic acid, and allowing sufficient time for the detector ligand to bind to the target nucleic acid; and detecting binding of the detector ligand to nucleic acid molecule in the sample to indicate the presence of the target nucleic acid.

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